

death on her way to school. She lived in my district, a freshman at Shaker Heights High School.

Penny's promising young life was ended by a 21-year-old man as she walked to school one morning. She was shot twice at close range with a semi-automatic pistol. As she lay on the ground dying, she was shot twice more. She loved computers, had done well in school.

After this despicable act, this troubled young man turned himself in to police shortly after, admitting to the crime. He had been a patient in a psychiatric unit. He had set Penny Chang's house on fire.

How could someone like this get ahold of a gun? How could a person with this kind of record of behavior come into possession of a semiautomatic handgun? Today the House has an opportunity to enact gun legislation, gun safety legislation, gun control legislation. I pray we will act to protect our young girls from this type of behavior so that we can save other Pennys in this Nation.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPERFUND FAIRNESS ACT OF 1999

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, the Superfund law was created in 1980 to clean up hazardous waste sites and hold polluters responsible. Unfortunately, small businesses have suffered the most as a result.

Last February, hundreds of innocent small businesses in Quincy, Illinois, received a notice from the U.S. EPA that they were required to pay \$3 million to clean up waste they had legally dumped in a landfill for years.

In a process close to extortion, the \$3 million payoff is to safeguard small businesses against suits by the major polluters. Saving small businesses by breaking them makes no sense to me.

I am introducing the Small Business Superfund Fairness Act of 1999 to ensure that a situation like we had in Quincy will not repeat itself in other communities across this country.

IT IS TIME TO STOP SCHEMING

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Republicans have time for the NRA. The Republican leadership gave the gun lobby nearly a month to twist arms and try to derail a gun safety bill. In fact, the New York Times said this morning, and I quote, Republican leaders have worked out a scheme to make it easier for lawmakers who take their cue from the National Rifle

Association to vote against meaningful reform.

First, Republicans say they need time to consider a bill in committee, and then they bring a bill to the floor that skips the committee process. Then Republicans say they want to work out a bipartisan solution. Instead, they split the bill in two parts so the NRA can try to kill the gun safety provisions.

Mr. Speaker, scheming with the NRA while our children's lives are at stake is a disgrace. It is time Republicans stop scheming and plotting political strategy with the gun lobby and start working on solutions to save our children from the epidemic of gun violence. It is time to have the Republican leadership stop pandering to the radical right in their party and start fighting for American parents who want to send their kids to school safely each day.

THE ECONOMY IS BOOMING BE- CAUSE PRESIDENT REAGAN CUT TAXES IN THE 1980'S

(Mr. COOKSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, who gets credit for the good economy we are now experiencing? Although many people believe that it should not matter who gets the credit, it is an important question because it is important to understand how we arrived where we are if we want to understand how to maintain and improve our current prosperity.

America is, compared to other countries, a low tax, low regulation country. Although our tax burden is way too high, our regulatory empire is clearly excessive, still the United States is the best place to invest, the best place to start a business, the best place to find a job, the best place to come if one wants to get ahead and chase their dreams.

The primary reason our economy is booming right now is because President Ronald Reagan cut taxes significantly in the 1980s, ushering in a period of strong economic growth that is still with us today.

Our economy at the end of the 1970s was in the ditch and liberals howled and protested against President Reagan's economic program, but it worked. That is the lesson of the 1980s.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS NEED TO BE EX- PANDED

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, the response of the House Committee on Rules to the events at Columbine High School

will be to allow the House to vote on treating 13-year-olds as adults in court, but they refuse to allow my amendment to be voted on, which would have greatly expanded comprehensive school-based programs to provide for early identification and intervention with emotionally troubled youth who give indication that they might be prone to violent acts.

I would make one point. Those two kids at Columbine would not have been deterred by the threat to be tried as an adult in court. They were willing to be killed to make their twisted statement. They might have responded to early mental health counseling and intervention.

This House unfortunately today will not pass thoughtful legislation affecting school violence. It will, instead, pass political press releases. We ought to be able to do better.

WHAT WOULD THE TAX BURDEN BE TODAY WERE IT NOT FOR REPUBLICANS?

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, what would the tax burden be today were it not for Republicans? Just think about that for a second.

The Reagan tax cuts, 25 percent across the board, would never have taken place. In fact, diehard liberals still rail with bitterness against the Reagan tax cut even to this day. It is almost as if they are completely oblivious to the hardships of sky high inflation and devastatingly high unemployment brought to American families.

The 1997 tax cuts passed by a Republican Congress also would never have taken place.

Yes, the verdict of history is in. If Democrats had their way, taxes would move in one direction and one direction only: Up.

I refer my colleagues to the comment by the minority leader of the Democrat Party just a few weeks ago. He said, "You have got to have a combination of taking it out of the defense budget and raising revenue. We can argue about how to do that, closing loopholes or even raising taxes to do it."

Taxpayers can thank the Republican Party. For without us, taxes would surely be much higher.

REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE CON- SIDERATION OF H. RES. 209, PRO- VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1501, CONSEQUENCES FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS ACT OF 1999, AND H.R. 2122, MANDATORY GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was just wondering if the Republicans are ready, finished writing the rule.